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**NLRB GENERAL COUNSEL MEISBURG PRAISES RECENT
ANNOUNCEMENT BY MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE AND
UAW TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FIRST CONTRACT**

National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB's) General Counsel Ronald Meisburg today praised the recent announcement made by Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Enterprise d/b/a Foxwoods Resort Casino (Foxwoods Resort Casino) and the International Union, UAW, AFL-CIO (UAW) to begin a period of bargaining in an effort to reach an initial collective-bargaining agreement covering the casino's dealers.

On September 30, 2008, the NLRB issued a Decision and Order finding that Foxwoods Resort Casino had violated Section 8(a)(1) and (5) of the National Labor Relations Act by refusing to recognize and bargain with the UAW (353 NLRB No. 32). This decision followed the Board's certification of the UAW as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of all full-time and regular part-time licensed dealers employed at the Connecticut casino earlier in the year, following a secret ballot election. Foxwoods Resort Casino has claimed throughout the processing of the Board cases that the agency does not have jurisdiction over the casino because it is owned by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Foxwoods Resort Casino has filed for review of the Board's Order with the U. S. Court of Appeals to challenge the Board's certification of the UAW on that basis.

Notwithstanding the pending litigation, Foxwoods and the UAW entered into settlement discussions and recently announced that, without waiving any legal defenses or positions, they would attempt to negotiate a first contract to resolve their labor dispute rather than continue their litigation.

The NLRB investigates and remedies unfair labor practices and conducts secret-ballot elections to determine whether employees desire union representation. The Board will stay its proceedings involving the casino and the UAW while the parties proceed with their negotiations.

Commenting on the agreement of the parties, General Counsel Meisburg remarked:

I wish to congratulate Foxwoods Resort Casino and the UAW for their willingness to sit down and begin negotiations for an initial collective-bargaining agreement. This pragmatic approach to resolving a high profile

labor dispute is in keeping with the cardinal principle of the National Labor Relations Act, which is to promote collective-bargaining after employees have expressed their desire for union representation.

For over a year, the NLRB's Hartford, CT Regional Office (Region 34), under the supervision of Regional Director Peter B. Hoffman, has been processing a series of representation petitions and unfair labor practice charges arising out of the UAW's effort to organize a unit of over 2,500 dealers at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, CT.

Commenting on the Region's handling of these high profile cases, General Counsel Meisburg stated:

Regional Director Peter Hoffman and the entire staff of the Hartford Regional Office deserve great credit for the dedicated and expert manner in which they have handled the cases involving Foxwoods Resort Casino and the UAW. Director Hoffman's superb leadership and the professionalism and tireless work of his staff on these cases encouraged the parties to undertake to resolve their disputes through collective-bargaining.

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